

TRIBUTE TO WADE KING

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, Wade King was a 10-year-old boy from my district who was killed on June 10th when a gasoline pipeline ruptured and exploded in Bellingham, Washington. I submit this letter written by someone who knew him very well, into the RECORD as a memorial to him.

A LETTER FROM WADE

Dear Mom & Dad, Sis, Bro, Lynn, Jessica, Grandma Dorothy and all:

I wanted you to know I arrived safely. Jesus met me and led the way. This is an awesome place. I asked him what happened and he told me a gas pipeline ruptured and exploded in the park, filling the creek where Steve and I were playing. I told him I thought that was a dumb place for a pipeline, and he said something like we humans still have a problem with foresight, whatever that means.

Anyway this place is just out of sight, and guess what, I don't have any burns and no pain, and all they tell you about Jesus is true. He loves us all and said he'd take care of you, Mom and Dad, and everyone else back in Bellingham.

I can't make up my mind what I like best about this place, because time doesn't matter; we can sleep when we want, eat when we want and the food is fantastic; you know how I like food, and sports are always being played. This morning Steve and I counted at least 12 baseball diamonds with games going on at all of them; some of the greats were playing—that DiMaggio guy and Mickey Mantle. I guess they were pretty good, weren't they Dad? And by the way I got to watch the Mariners on Saturday—way to go guys. I knew we could beat those Ferndale guys. It was a special hook-up because they knew how important this game was to me.

Mom, I hope you're not too sad, or mad at me: I know I've caused a lot of people to be sad, but tell everyone I'm fine, especially all the kids and teachers at Roosevelt. My education will continue; I have a lot of stripes to earn before I become an angel—can you imagine that? Me, and angel? Yeah, I know I can hear you all laughing, "Wade with wings?" Just imagine that—but you can bet I'm going to be the best angel possible.

Tell my 4th grade Sunday school class at St. Paul's that they should study the Bible: it has all that really matters in life; that will be my biggest task along with all the regular subjects.

I want you to know, too, how special a send-off you and Father John gave me at Harborview—to have you there gave me the strength to face the darkness until Jesus came for me.

I miss you all very much, and Jesus told me how much you all miss me, and then he pointed out that we can always replay the tapes of our lives to remember those special moments. Then he reminded me of the time he said, "I am with you always." Well, he said the same is true of us—I will be with you in spirit forever, just as Jesus is with you. I gave Jesus a high five when he reminded me of that;—he is a cool guy.

You know we touched each other in life: I touched you and you touched me. Each of you went into making me who I am, and I'd like to think I helped you be who you are. If that is so, then I continue to live in you and you live in me.

Finally, thank you for celebrating my life today; it is special to know how much you

are loved; I know I'm one very much loved boy and I love you all, too. Jesus says that is the key to life—loving each other. Remember his commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you."

I love you all,

WADE

Amen.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JAN RUDMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, throughout towns and cities across our nation there are individuals who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talents and energies to making life better for their friends and neighbors. The citizens of Corona, California, are fortunate to have such an individual in outgoing Mayor Jan Rudman.

Mayor Rudman's involvement with Corona city government, and community, began in 1994 when she was first elected to the Corona City Council. As a councilwoman she represented the community's concerns, set priorities for projects and plans of action, allocated funds, and made decisions essential to the future of Corona. Her energy seems endless, with the long list of her business and community involvements including: Circle City Rotary, 1993 Mayor's Task Force, Navy League, Corona Chamber of Commerce and First Congregational Church.

In 1998, the Corona, recognized her leadership and commitment and elected her mayor. Since then, she has accomplished many goals which have improved the community. One of her greatest accomplishments as mayor was the implementation of the "Partners in Community Service" program, implemented to recognize the many volunteer groups and organizations who have given back to the Corona community so graciously.

Mayor Rudman has made a lasting and positive impact in the Corona community. Her involvement and leadership has established a path for those individuals following in her footsteps. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Rudman for her dedication, influence and involvement in our community. She has served as an outstanding representative of municipal government. It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate Mayor Rudman for the outstanding job she has done as Mayor of Corona.

TRIBUTE TO J. THOMAS DE BRUIN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 19, 1999, Mr. J. Thomas De Bruin of West Long Branch, NJ, will be honored on the occasion of his retirement from the State of New Jersey's Office of the Public Defender, after 31 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. De Bruin served as a police officer in West Long Branch from 1967 to 1970. In Oc-

tober of 1970, he began working at the Public Defender's Office in what would prove to be a long and impressive career. From 1991 until his retirement, Mr. De Bruin was a Chief Investigator, and since 1995 he has been the Supervisor of the Polygraph Unit. He has been a certified polygraph examiner since 1982. His professional memberships include: the New Jersey Polygraphists, Inc., since 1983, and Past President 1997–98; the American Polygraph Association since 1986, including service on the Membership Committee 1998–99; and the Public Defenders' Investigators' Association of New Jersey, 1971–91.

Mr. De Bruin was also very active in community affairs. He served on a number of commissions and bodies in his home town of West Long Branch, including: the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Sport Association, the Recreation Commission and the Historic Society. Mr. De Bruin is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Old First United Methodist Church. He has served as Director of the West Long Branch Little League and as Treasurer of the Public School PTA. He has been a Webelos Leader of the Cub Scouts of America, and President of the Shore Regional High School Quarterback Club. He was a Manager/Coach of the first championship season of the West Long Branch Lions of the Seaboard Bigger League in 1971. Mr. De Bruin has also served as Musical Director of the Asbury Park and Red Bank Area Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Tom De Bruin resides in West Long Branch with his wife Louise. They have two adult sons, Brian and Dominick, and a daughter-in-law.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Public Defender will be much the poorer with Mr. De Bruin's departure. But I am confident that Monmouth County will continue to benefit from his commitment to service and dedication to our community for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE B.
SALTER**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago's unsung heroes, the late George B. Salter. His untimely death on October 24, 1999 will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. George B. Salter was born in Hickory, Mississippi on October 13, 1916 to the union of Sallie Johnson Salter and Frank Salter. Mr. George B. Salter would later marry his high school sweetheart Louise Lucille Stroter. To this union two daughters were born, Brenda Yvonne Salter and Henrietta Louise Salter.

A Navy veteran, Mr. George B. Salter committed part of his life to protect the freedom of Americans and to further fight for the freedom of others around the world. While in the Navy Mr. George B. Salter was a member of the prestigious Navy band playing the trumpet while stationed in Earl, New Jersey.

Mr. George B. Salter was employed for over 40 years by the Chicago Burlington and Quincy Railroad (presently Burlington Northern

Santa Fe Railroad) where he rose in the ranks and became the first African-American to be appointed to the position of crew supervisor. Mr. George B. Salter was a steadfast believer that with the proper amount of work anything was possible.

Mr. George B. Salter took an active part in his community. This was seen in his utmost consecration to his vocation as God's faithful servant. As a Senior Usher in charge of the Balcony at Liberty Baptist Church, George B. Salter enjoyed helping Liberty's official greeters bring their children upstairs. Mr. Salter brought hope and optimism to ordinary folks whose lives he touched so deeply never holding anyone at arm's length.

Mr. George B. Salter was a relentless community builder, a loving father, and a doting grandfather, completely unselfish in all of his endeavors. Mr. Salter leaves behind his devoted wife of 58 years Louise, his daughter Brenda Salter Jones married to James Jones Sr., Henrietta Salter Leak married to Spencer Leak Sr., and four beautiful grandsons James Jones Jr., Spencer Leak Jr., Stephen L. Leak and Stacy R. Leak. The man they called "Papa" will surely be missed.

My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mr. George B. Salter, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

HONORING JACK A. BROWN III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the achievements of Jack A. Brown III.

Jack is a native New Yorker who was born and raised on the lower east side of Manhattan. He currently resides, in my district, in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn. Jack has had a distinguished 7-year career with the Correctional Services Corporation (CSC). The Corporation is a private company contracted by local, State and Federal Corrections Department to provide concrete services to the inmate population. As the vice president of Correctional Services Corporation Community Services Division, Mr. Brown maintains overall responsibility for the day to day operations of the five New York programs. These programs, three for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and two for the New York State Department of Corrections, are designed to provide inmates with the tools necessary to successfully reintegrate back into their prospective communities as self-sufficient, responsible, law abiding citizens.

Prior to his employment with CSC, Jack served as an officer in the United States Army's Air Defense Artillery Division for 4 years. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Bachelor's degree in Human Services, with a concentration in mental health, and Biology. During his academic years, he gained invaluable experience in the field of human services holding positions as Psychiatric Counselor, Chemical Dependency Counselor and Youth Counselor. In December, Jack expects to earn a double Masters degree, an MBA and a Master of Science and Economic Development, from the University of New Hampshire.

I wish Jack Brown success in his future endeavors and I commend his achievements to my colleagues' attention.

INDIA PROTESTS POPE'S VISIT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn of the organized protests against Pope John Paul II in anticipation of his recent visit to India. In fact, many would tell you that there was more reason to worry about his safety on this trip than when he traveled to communist Poland under martial law. Although the Pope left the country safely, I cannot forget the ghastly image printed by the media of Hindu activists burning an effigy of Pope John Paul II in New Delhi before his visit.

Mr. Speaker, these protests were led by a violent faction of Hindu fundamentalists that are closely aligned with the Hindu nationalist government. They have carried out a wave of brutal attacks on Christians within the past year. Since Christmas Day of 1998, they have burned down Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools. Also, four priests have been murdered, and earlier this year Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons were burned alive.

How much more of this must we witness? Already 200,000 Christians, 250,000 Sikhs, 65,000 Muslims, and tens of thousands of others have fallen at the hands of either the Indian government or those closely related to the government since the subcontinent's independence a half-century ago.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the articles from India Abroad and the New York Post into the RECORD regarding this disturbing issue.

[From the New York Post, Oct. 28, 1999]

POPE'S PASSAGE TO INDIA MAY BE MOST PERILOUS YET
(By Rod Dreher)

Will Pope John Paul II be safe in India? There is more reason to worry for the pontiff's welfare as he visits the world's largest democracy next week than there was when he went to communist Poland under martial law.

That's because a small but violent faction of Hindu fundamentalists aligned with the Hindu nationalist government have been conducting an organized campaign against the pope as part of a concerted effort to demonize and persecute the country's tiny Christian minority.

The government promises to protect the Holy Father from coalition fanatics. But while John Paul can rely on state security, his Catholic followers and Protestant brethren remain at the mercy of Hindu brown-shirts.

These thugs have carried out vicious attacks on Christians since a coalition led by the hard-line Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) came to power two years ago.

Freedom House, the Washington-based human-rights organization, says there have been more recorded incidents of violence against India's Christian minority in the past year than in the previous half-century.

The most shocking incident took place in January, when Hindu thugs burned alive Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two little boys. That was far from an isolated incident.

In 1998, the Catholic Bishop's Conference in India reported 108 cases of beatings, stonings, church burnings, looting of religious schools and institutions, and other attacks on Catholics and evangelicals.

It has been just as bad this year. Just last month, a Catholic priest working in the same territory as the Staines family was murdered while saying Mass for converts, his heart pierced by a poison-tipped arrow.

Why the attacks? Hindu nationalist leaders, particularly those associated with the BJP-allied World Hindu Congress (VHP), claim Christians are on "conversion overdrive."

This is preposterous. Despite being present in India for almost 2,000 years, and educating hundreds of millions of Indian children, Christianity claims the allegiance of less than 3 percent of the country's people.

Even in Orissa state, site of the worst anti-Christian violence, fewer than 500 conversions occur each year.

Still, Hindu nationalists continue to make wild-eyed assertions, such as VHP leader Mohan Joshi's recent statement that missionary homes run by Mother Teresa's order were "nothing but conversion centers."

Not true, but if it were, so what?

We know perfectly well what would have become of the diseased and the destitute had Mother Teresa's nuns not rescued them from the street: They would have been left to die in the gutter, condemned by a culture that decrees these lowborn souls deserve their fate.

"What has the VHP done to better the life of the low castes? The answer is nothing," says Freedom House investigator Joseph Assad.

"When I was in India, I talked to one Christian who was forcibly reconverted to Hinduism. He told me when no one cared for us, Christians came and gave us food, gave us shelter and gave us medicine."

An Indian Protestant activist who lives in New Jersey told me BJP rule has meant open season on followers of Christ.

"The last two years have been unprecedented," the man says.

"They have burned churches down, raped nuns, killed people. We complain to the government, but they look the other way."

The Hindu militants certainly do not represent the sentiments of all Hindus. But these thugs have the tacit support and protection of the ruling BJP. Indeed, the BJP Web site condemns "Semitic monotheism"—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—for "bringing intolerance to India."

This is what is known to professional propagandists as the Big Lie. No wonder Hindu hard-liners confidently pillage Christian communities.

How many more Hindu-led atrocities will Christians and others suffer before Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee calls off the nationalist dogs?

Will it take a physical assault on the Holy Father for the world to wake up to the kind of place Gandhi's great nation has become.

[From India Abroad, Oct. 29, 1999]

PROTEST MARCH LAUNCHED AGAINST THE
POPE'S VISIT

(By Frederick Noronha)

PANAJI, GOA.—Hindu right-wing groups flagged off a Goa-to-Delhi protest march on Oct. 21 that could fuel the controversy surrounding Pope John Paul II's visit to India, scheduled for early November.

The campaigners are protesting what they call large-scale conversions to Christianity in India and want the Pope to say that all religions are equal.

The protest march, which is scheduled to end in Delhi around the time of the Pope's visit, is being called a "Dharma Jagran Abhiyan." It was flagged off from Divar, an island off Old Goa, once a center for Catholic evangelization.